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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### MOUNT MCKINLEY WILDLIFE LECTURE

Richard Prasil, Regional Research Biologist, Western Region, National Park Service, will give an illustrated lecture on "Mount McKinley Wildlife Through the Seasons" at the 546th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society **Thursday, January 9**, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, Franklin and Geary Sts., San Francisco.

The meeting will be preceded by dinner at the church at 6 p.m. (\$1.50 per person.) **If you want to come for dinner, please let us hear from you by Tuesday, January 7, in order to assist the cook in buying the right quantity of food.** Please phone either Val DaCosta in San Francisco (WE 1-5257) or Margaret Peterson in Oakland (568-7534). Come and bring a friend.—ROBERT C. DaCOSTA, JR., *Program Chairman*

### FIELD TRIPS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

**Saturday, January 11**, to Dillon's Beach. Meet at Point Reyes Station at 9 a. m. This trip has been planned to study the bird life of the east side of Tomales Bay. The wintering species are probably all in, so large groups of water and shore birds should be seen. Harlequin duck, red-necked grebe, black brant and bald eagle have been seen here. Leader, Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534.

On **Sunday, January 12**, trip to Dillon's Beach will be repeated. Co-leaders for this trip will be Grace Miller and Alice Williams, phone 669-1218.

**Tuesday, January 14**, to Golden Gate Park. This trip will start at 9:30 a.m. from the Aquarium in Golden Gate Park which can be reached by taking the No. 10 Municipal bus. Such interesting species as varied and hermit thrush, orange-crowned, myrtle, Audubon and Townsend warblers may be seen. Anna's hummingbird nests might be seen as they start nesting activities as early as December. Leader, Miss Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208.

On **Sunday, January 19**, a joint trip of Golden Gate Audubon Society and Marin Audubon Society will be taken up the Marin Coast off shore by boat. Purpose of the trip will be to study whales in migration and also spot some species of water birds which are hard to see from land, such as harlequin and oldsquaw ducks. We will probably go north of Point Reyes where Mrs. Alice Williams has seen whales in migration in mid-January in previous years. Cost of the trip will be \$8.50 per passenger. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society Inc. and mail to Harold G.

Peterson, 3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605. Departure time from Berkeley pier will be 6 a.m. on Privateer II with another pickup of passengers in San Francisco from Mobiloil Dock at the foot of Hyde Street. Leader to be announced.

On **Saturday, January 25**, to Lake Merritt and Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland. Lake Merritt is a good place to observe many species of water birds at close range. Some unusual birds may, also, be seen in the pens and on display in the dome. A visit to the Rotary Natural Science Center is interesting and educational. This nationally known wildlife refuge is becoming more important to this community every year. Many groups use its facilities to learn more about nature and wildlife. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park near the feeding areas at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leader, Paul F. Covell, KE 6-4120.

Those wishing to go to Joaquin Miller Park and the Robin Roost, meet again at the Rotary Science Center at 1 p.m. From there travel will be by auto. If weather permits and the robins cooperate, a demonstration of bird banding will be given by members of the W. B. B. A. at the above designated area. In the event of bad weather, Paul Covell will show a movie in the science center.

On **Saturday, February 1**, The Sierra Club and the Save San Francisco Bay Association are having a joint meeting at the S. F. Bay Model in Sausalito at 9 a.m. The U. S. Army Engineers who built the model will explain their studies and show the model in operation. This showing has been especially arranged for us.

The place is easy to find. It is in a large building of the U. S. Army Engineers, on the water front just off the main street (Bridgeway Blvd.) through Sausalito. From the freeway (Highway 101) turn off to Sausalito and follow the main road. Ample parking space is available at the site. Invitation by Harold G. Sharp for the Sierra Club.

On **Sunday, February 9**, to Richardson Bay and other Marin peninsula points. We will visit the Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge established through the efforts of the Richardson Bay Foundation and the National Audubon Society. This area was patrolled by an Audubon Warden, Mr. John C. Larson, Jr., during the last waterfowl hunting season. He will be present to give us a talk on the history of the Victorian house restored by Mr. Donald Dickey, and the bird population occupying the sanctuary during winter months.

Meet at the parking area just north of the Richardson Bay Bridge on U.S. Highway 101 at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, and interested friends. Leader, Elizabeth S. Lennon, ED 2-1641.

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*.....

### FOR THE CHILDREN

At 10 o'clock on the morning of **Saturday, January 25**, there will be a field trip at the Ocean Beach in San Francisco. It will start just opposite the house of Recreation for the Handicapped, which is west of Fleischacker Pool. We will walk southward along the beach and eat our lunches



somewhere along the way. Be sure to do your lunch up on a bandana that you can tie in your belt so that you will have your hands free for picking things up. In order to have a container in which to carry things back, bring along an empty milk carton, one or two quart size, and we'll teach you how to turn it into a handy container. After lunch there will be a surprise for everyone. Children eight years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Other adults are welcome too. The trip will end at 1.30, when the children should be picked up at the place where we started.

### SOME OF THE TREASURES ON THE BEACH

Let us divide the treasures there into the three kingdoms, for we will find animals, vegetables and minerals on the beach.

We'll start with the minerals: First, there will be the sand, which you will notice is made up of many different colored particles. Bring along a magnifying glass and we'll see how many we can find. The glassy bits are probably quartz which is so hard that it isn't ground down into dust even by the continuous action of the waves. There may also be bits of soft sandstone and some black mineral which you will be able to separate from the rest with a magnet, for these bits are magnetite.

We will find at least two sorts of rocks, maybe more. The kind that is made up of pebbles and shells cemented together is called conglomerate or pudding stone, for it is supposed to look like pudding, bumpy with the raisins it contains. We are sure to find some sandstone, swept down from the high cliffs between the beach and the land beyond, and perhaps we may come across some speckled rock which has come from a great distance. This is granite.

Now for the vegetable matter: We will of course find seaweeds, those large, long-tailed kelps with huge, ball-like floats which hold the plant up to the sunlight when it is growing under water. We will also see the flat leaves of other seaweeds with their small floats closely attached and the long thin green blades known as eel-grass. We might find some jointed ones that remind you of coral and others that are lacy and very beautiful. Up close to the land behind the beach there may be purple Beach Asters and Sea Rockets with light purple petals four in number.

Of animal life there is a great deal on the beach. There will be tiny live sand fleas among the seaweeds and the larger white sand hoppers which also feed on the kelp. Sand crabs sometimes called mole crabs, are cylindrical in shape and dig their way backward into the sand where they wait for the surf to bring them food. Though we will not find live crabs, we are almost sure to run across some of their claws and shells.

There will of course be other shells of many sorts, mostly broken ones, however. All shells are classified according to the number of their shells. Those with one shell are called univalves and those with two, bivalves.

Among the univalves are the coiled ones, or snails, and the limpets which look like small mountains. Abalone is another univalve and we may find broken pieces of its rainbow-lined shells on the beach.

Of the bivalves there are many sorts of clams, some with ridges and some quite smooth. There are the razor-shells, narrow and brittle, but which, when they still have live animals living within, could bore round holes in the soft rocks. We will probably find some of these rocks as we go along the beach.

There will also be sand dollars and sea urchins, both members of the starfish family.

And finally we may come across some large gobs of jelly fish and some smaller ones shaped like tiny umbrellas. These last are known as medusas. These are not fish at all (nor are starfish as a matter of fact), but very primitive animals which once swam free in the ocean.

Well, I'll be seeing you on January 25th and **DON'T FORGET YOUR MILK CARTON** and try to be on time.

JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman*

### AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM ON ALBERTA—JANUARY 22

Birds and mammals of the Canadian Province of Alberta, photographed by Edgar T. Jones, will be featured in the next Audubon Wildlife Film, **Alberta Outdoors**, at the Berkeley Little Theatre on **Wednesday, January 22**, at 8 p.m.

Edgar T. Jones is a photographer-naturalist from Edmonton, Alberta, who has traveled thousands of miles throughout the Canadian wilderness studying and photographing wildlife. After searching for three years, he located two nests of the great gray owl and photographed this diminishing species in its natural habitat. Among many other species to appear in **Alberta Outdoors** will be bohemian waxwings, pine and evening grosbeaks, snowy owl, snow geese, moose, elk, and Canada lynx.

Topographically, Alberta is one of the most interesting of Canadian Provinces. The southern section is a rolling plain, the central section a region of parklands and rich farming country, and much of the north an untamed wilderness. During the winter months, many Arctic birds migrate and winter in the Province, while resident birds and animals stray from their summer haunts in the foothills and mountains to other sections of Alberta.

Single admission tickets for this new color film may be purchased for \$1.00 at the door of the Berkeley Little Theatre, Allston Way at Grove St., after 7:30 p.m. on January 22.

### CANYON RANCH FILM AVAILABLE

The beautiful film of Audubon Canyon Ranch made by Laurel Reynolds and Mindy Willis is available for group showing. It is a 16mm. color movie with sound and it runs for 20 minutes. Any organization planning to borrow this film should write or phone Mrs. Budd Smith, 555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco. (OVERland 1-7635)



## SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OBSERVATIONS NEEDED

Several Audubon branches have received the following request from Professor Gerald O. Gates of the University of the Pacific:

"During the last year one of my students, James Tate, Jr., has been gathering data for support of his Master's thesis, An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of San Joaquin County, California. This investigation includes (1) an account of the general ecological changes that have occurred within the county over the past 200 years, (2) a complete listing of existing specimens that have been collected in this county, and (3) an account for each species, including information on seasonal status, abundance, changes in the populations (seasonal and annual), etc.

"We would appreciate your asking the membership of your society (at a meeting or, perhaps, through your newsletter) if anyone could provide some of the following information: 1) Have they ever done any birding in San Joaquin Co. and if so, do they have records of their field trips here? 2) Do they know of anyone else who has been birding in this county (even occasionally)? 3) Do they know of any private bird skin or egg collections, which might have specimens from San Joaquin Co.? 4) Do they know of any obscure published data which might be overlooked in our search of the literature? The smallest amount of data would be of considerable help in providing for a more complete paper."

If you have any information, please send it to James Tate, Jr., c/o Dr. Gerald O. Gates, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of the Pacific, Stockton 4, Calif.

## WHOOPING CRANES BOUNCE BACK

The famous remnant flock of wild whooping cranes, after slumping in 1962 with no reproduction, has bounced back in 1963!

By late in November a total of 33 of the stately white birds had arrived at wintering grounds in and near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the coast of Texas after completing the long, migratory flight from northwest Canada. Among the arrivals were *seven young birds*, the produce of this year's nesting season. — *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*, December 1.

## NOTES FROM OUR EXCHANGE BULLETINS

We congratulate Santa Barbara Audubon Society on their new branch status and their new bulletin, *El Tecolote*, edited by Mrs. Janet Hamber. With the Editor's permission the following paragraphs are reprinted from an article by Mrs. Margaret Millar, Conservation Chairman, in Vol. 1, No. 2, October, 1963.

"On October 6, a chestnut-sided warbler was seen by Tom and Mary Hyland in Hope Ranch and their identification of the bird was later confirmed by T. N. Metcalf and others. News of this rare find, the third known instance of the bird in Southern California, would have been happily relayed to other enthusiastic birders in California except for one thing: the other two chestnut-sided warblers had both been 'collected,' the biologists' euphemism for 'killed.'

"One of these warblers was killed by a young man who has a collector's

license but whose objective, which he stated in the presence of myself and others, was to see more birds within a year in California than anyone else ever had. He did, indeed, set a record. He also killed, for a reason I cannot accept as serious, a rare bird, and one of the most confiding and easily-approached of all warblers. The collector for a university or a museum has a better excuse, perhaps, but the result is the same: another dead bird, another chance lost to study it in life. It is easier, of course, to wield a gun than a camera, simpler to kill than to band and make careful scientific observations." . . .

In the November *Sanderling*, bulletin of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, Capt. Elgin B. Hurlbert USN (Ret) comments in his President's Message, as follows:

"We have a pernicious species of bird fancier resident in this state much more concerned with building a reputation for having seen more species than anyone else than the perpetuation of a rarity . . . My complaint is against the 'loner' who hasn't time or patience to call in a witness to the sighting of a new species, and 'collects' it instead. It is possible for a dedicated person to get a collector's license to take non-game birds, but it isn't easy, and a really good excuse must be given. Usually the non-professional collector will acquire his specimens from areas of abundance, but one who travels with his gun at the ready is not apt to neglect a 'single' if it should come his way. I could find it in my makeup to condone the taking of specimens for museums and schools were it not for the competitive urge this program seems to engender. I can find no excuse for the taking of a specimen which is found not in its normal habitat, simply to satisfy an ego, when the bird is abundant elsewhere. You may be sure that I kept an eagle eye out for known 'collectors' during the time we had our Orchard Oriole with us last winter and spring, and fortunately available for the delegates to the Audubon Western Conference at Asilomar in April."

### SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following gifts were made to the Audubon Canyon Ranch fund:

*In Memory of:*

Mrs. Eugenie Van Ysen  
Lois Ruffner  
Alfred Ayres  
H. Ward Dawson  
Herbert Franklin

*Gift of:*

Mr. and Mrs. William J. O'Brien  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Johnson  
Mrs. John Ogden  
W. S. Cauchois  
California Alpine Club

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*